

(c) the reasons for not according priority to it despite the severe shortage of power in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Government of India to set up a nuclear power plant at Bhimpur in Shivpuri district in the State.

(b) Approval of new sites is done in tune with the requirements of planned growth of nuclear power programme taking into account characteristics of sites available for consideration, resources, other energy options available in the region etc. Bhimpur site would be considered along with other sites when new sites are required to be identified.

(c) The inland sites, where nuclear power stations are already in operation/under construction have potential to accommodate more units. It is considered prudent to utilize this potential first to fully utilize the existing infrastructure. The power generated by nuclear power stations is allocated to all the beneficiary states in the electricity region, irrespective of the physical location of the station. Madhya Pradesh has an allocation of electricity 106 MWe from KAPS 1&2 (440 MWe) and 192 MWe from TAPS-3&4 (1080 MWe) located in the western electricity region.

Construction of Nuclear Energy plants by private sector

2415. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector would be allowed to construct Nuclear Energy plants in India;

(b) if so, how the Department would process to allocate nuclear plants to private sector in India in details;

(c) whether his Ministry would allow private sector overseas to come and build these nuclear plants in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total potential of nuclear energy plants Government propose to construct within the next 5-10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Atomic Energy Act 1962 allows nuclear power generation only by a Government Company with greater than 51% shares of Government of India. Amendment to the act would be required to enable private sector participation in nuclear power generation. No final decision has been taken in this matter.

(c) and (d) Many foreign firms are also engaged in discussions at the company level for setting up of nuclear power projects in the country. However, these discussions are only of exploratory nature.

(e) Presently there are 16 nuclear power reactors under operation in the country with a total installed capacity of 3900 MWe. The present capacity of 3900 MWe will be increased to 4120 MWe by the end of X Plan with completion of Kaiga-3 (220 MWe) and 7280 MWe with the completion of three more units of 220 MWe namely Kaiga-4 and RAPP-5&6 and two units of 1000 MWe each, being set up at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in co-operation with Russian Federation, and 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (of the second stage) by the end of XI Plan progressively. Large scale expansion of the nuclear power is envisaged beyond XI plan.

Movement by displaced persons in Talcher field, Orissa

†2416. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken to resolve the ongoing movement by the displaced persons in the Talcher field under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (M.C.L.) situated in Orissa;

(b) the reasons for not providing the required employment to the displaced persons therefor; and

(c) the extent of employment provided in other fields in comparison to the production and its statistics in Talcher field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) is in constant touch with the land oustees and the Government of Orissa for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.